

anguish, pain, frustration and, too often, tragedy. They break your heart. They break your heart to read. Rhode Island is a small State. If we have it happening hundreds and hundreds of times, in the Presiding Officer's State of New Hampshire and across this country, it has to be happening thousands of times, tens of thousands of times, hundreds of thousands of times every day.

With all that suffering going on, with all the risks to our country of the perils of the costs coming at us from our health care system, if the other side can't care about the merits and substance of health care reform—if you cannot care about the merits and substance of health care reform, if, for you, it is just political theater, if all it is, is a way to “break” the President of the United States of America, in a time of domestic and international crisis, if your goal is to break the President rather than do something about health care, if that is how little you care about health care, then you can't care about the merits or substance of anything else because there is nothing domestically that is as important to our country as health care reform. If you cannot care about that and deal with us on the merits on that, then you can't care about anything.

What is really frustrating about this is for these Rhode Islanders, tormented by our health care system, and for their millions of fellow Americans across the country, who have those same experiences, there is a better way. We are working toward it. We can find it, and we can make it happen.

We have to do better, we can do better, and we will do better with this legislation than 47 million uninsured and millions more teetering on the brink, one paycheck away from losing their insurance, one illness away from losing their insurance. We can and we have to and we will do better under this legislation than 100,000 Americans dying every year because of avoidable medical errors and because, among other reasons, we have the worst health care infrastructure, information infrastructure, in health care than in any other American industry except the mining industry. We can make this better. We can do better and we have to do better and we will do better than health care outcomes for Americans that are at the bottom of all of our industrialized competitors—at the bottom; with all of our capabilities as Americans, our ingenuity and our entrepreneurship, we are at the bottom of developed nations in health care outcomes for our people, and we pay twice as much as they do to get there.

America can do better than this. Beginning with the work of the HELP Committee, we are on our way. Let's not squander the opportunity and the responsibility this day presents. Let's not be distracted by calls for delay or appeals to the pettiest political instincts this Chamber could express.

As I see it, we are about 55 years late already. We don't need further delay;

we need to get this done. Year after year, Americans have had the same complaints about their health care system. We have it within our power, under the leadership of this President, to make it happen, and we will.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

ARTS IN CRISIS PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, today I stand to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Kennedy Center in addressing the crisis facing our art organizations across this country. Under the leadership of their talented president, Michael Kaiser, the Kennedy Center has established a unique outreach program that will help cultural organizations throughout Nevada and our Nation weather the economic downturn.

Every Member of this body knows of the economic hardship facing American families and businesses. The art community is not immune. In Nevada, the Las Vegas Art Museum recently closed its doors due to financial troubles when donations dried up. The museum had been operating since 1974 and was a staple for art enthusiasts in the region. Unless help is provided to our cultural organizations, I am afraid this scene will continue to be rehashed throughout the country.

Considered the “turnaround specialist” in his industry, Mr. Kaiser knows a thing or two about struggling arts organizations. When the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra was struggling after Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Kaiser helped keep their organization performing. When the Dance Theater of Harlem was struggling, Mr. Kaiser helped reopen its school. When the New York City Opera needed restructuring, Mr. Kaiser's recommendations helped the Opera thrive. These are just a few examples of high-profile success in Mr. Kaiser's career as an arts administrator.

Now, Mr. Kaiser wants to use his talents to help struggling arts organizations across the country. The “Arts in Crisis” program offers free consultation from the Kennedy Center's experts about budgeting, fundraising, marketing, and other aspects vital to a struggling organization. Whether by phone, email, or in-person visits, the Kennedy Center's talented staff freely gives of their time and talents to help preserve America's cultural establishments. I am confident that this unique program will enable struggling arts organizations to emerge from the economic downturn stronger than ever.

I urge every arts institution that is struggling during this difficult time to take advantage of Mr. Kaiser and this exceptional team of experts. I know that the arts in Nevada will benefit from the Kennedy Center's sound advice and I look forward to Mr. Kaiser's visit to my State.

HEALTH CARE POLLS

Mr. KYL. Madam. President, a spate of new polls reveal that, while Ameri-

cans want health care reform, just as all of us in Congress do, most of them oppose the plan put forward by President Obama, disapprove of his handling of health care, and have serious concerns about the cost of his plan and how it would affect the quality of their own health care.

For example, a Rasmussen poll released July 22 shows a full 53 percent of voters oppose the health care legislation “working its way through Congress.”

A July 17 Zogby poll backs up these findings, revealing that a full 50 percent of Americans disapprove of the health care bill introduced in the House of Representatives and endorsed by President Obama.

A July 20, USA Today/Gallup poll shows that 50 percent of Americans disapprove of the President's overall handling of this issue.

These findings dovetail with polling that indicates Americans are very wary of the projected costs of the President's health care plan.

Zogby's July 17 poll shows that 59 percent of Americans say the President's proposals, including health care, call for too much government spending.

And a whopping 78 percent of U.S. voters believe it is at least somewhat likely that taxes will be raised on the middle class to cover the cost of health care reform, a July 16 Rasmussen poll tells us.

Nearly half of respondents—44 percent believe “government-managed coverage” will increase—not decrease—the price of health care, according to a July 21 Public Strategies Inc/Politico poll. Only 27 percent think a government-managed health care system would lower costs, while 29 percent said prices would remain the same.

Americans' concerns about how the President's plan would affect health care access and quality are reflected in this same Public Strategies/Politico survey.

Asked by pollsters “what effect a government-managed health care coverage option would have on access to health services, 40 percent said it would make the situation worse, 38 percent said it would make it better, and 22 percent said it would remain the same.”

Asked what effect the President's plan would have on the quality of health care, “42 percent said it would make health care worse, 33 percent said it would make it better, and 25 percent said it would not have an effect.”

We, in Congress, have heard Americans' concerns about the President's proposed health care reform for weeks now—and these concerns were not allayed at all when the Director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office told us that these reforms would actually increase, rather than decrease, costs, and drive our Nation more deeply into debt.

That statement, along with congressional Democrats' plan to raise taxes